Tire Industry Sets Up New Task Force To Promote Safety, Save Gas, With Right Air

The tire industry has formed a special high level task force to direct a massive new campaign for proper tire inflation as a way to save gas and promote highway safety, it was announced today.

The action was disclosed by Malcolm R. Lovell, Jr., President of the Rubber Manufacturers Association.

"We hope to secure the cooperation of the oil companies, the automobile manufacturers, equipment suppliers, government agencies and private safety groups in this important effort," said Lovell. "It will benefit everybody by conserving energy and making our streets and highways safer."

The new RMA "Task Force On Tire Inflation" is headed by Thomas E. Cole, RMA Vice President-Tire Division.

"We have three goals," Cole said. "First is to educate the motorist about the need and advantages of proper tire inflation. Second is to keep compressed air easily available to him. Third is to promote the use of on-board tire inflation indicators which will show when tire pressure is low."

The Task Force is made up of leading representatives of the tire companies which belong to RMA. It has been divided into five subcommittees to work individually with oil companies, auto companies, tire companies, government agencies and other "concerned" private safety organizations.

"We are going tyo carry the safety and economy message to every one of these groups, and seek their help," said Cole.

Government and industry surveys have shown that more than 25 percent of automobiles have seriously underinflated tires.

"This wastes money and endangers lives," Cole said. "Properly inflated tires can add up to five percent to your gasoline mileage. They also give longer treadwear. Underinflated tires run hotter, wear out faster, and are subject to early failure which can cause an accident."

Farm Bureau To Push For Wildlife Program Change

Dec. 1, 1977 - Farm Bureau will push for a national "wildlife management" program as a more logical approach to controling wildlife predation than the present "wildlife conservation" only concept, Allan Grant said today.

Grant, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) spoke at the annual meeting of the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation.

"Wildlife conservation laws tend to conserve and protect all wildlife at any cost, with the farmers and ranchers picking up the tab," the AFBF president said.

"It is easy to love a coyote from a distance," he added. "It is a far different thing to love coyotes when you live with them and they feed on your livestock."

Grant explained that the "wildlife management" theory for which Farm Bureau opts. takes into account the preservation and increase of rare or endangered species and the advisability of decreasing the population of some destructive species.

At issue, Grant said, is whether all wildlife, including predators, is owned by the public, and if so, who is responsible for the depredation to crops, livestock and to toher wildlife.

Grant said he cannot understand the narrow-mindedness of environental purists who seem to think that evolution can be frozen, that no species or creature, animal or plant, must ever be endan gered no matter what billions in economic loss may be suffered by people.

"This tunnel vision has resulted in an endangered species act so rigid and out of touch with reality that were a farmer to shoot a wolf (an endangered species) caught in the act of killing a calf or lamb, he could be fined up to $20,000 or receive a one year term in prison," Grant stated, adding:

"The only time a landowner can now defend himself from a wolf's predation is if it attacks him personally.

"Human beings are a natural resource too" he said. "Wildlife, soil, water, forests, grasslands and minerals have meaning only interms of human relationship to them.

"If this were not so," Grant continued, "the logical conclusion is that mankind should return tha planet to the way it ws when jumanity first appeared, then quietly choose self-extinction to leave the earth in a pristine, useless state forevermore."

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VEPCO Announces Management Changes

Virginia Electric and Power Company has announced change in senior management to become effective January 1, in preparation for the retirement of John M. McGurn, chairman of the board, in October next year.

T. Justin Moore Jr., has been elected vice chairman and chief executive officer. Mr. Moore joined Vepco 10 years ago and has served as president and chief fiancial officer since 1970.

Stanley Ragone has been elected president and chief operating officer, succeeding Mr. Moore. Since 1976, Mr. Ragone has been serving as executive vice president.

Mr. McGurn, in announcing the changes, said that the chairman, vice chairman and president will function as the "office of the chief executive." The changes, he said, have been planned "to provide an orderly transition during the perios prior to my retirement."

Mr. McGurn also announced that William W. Berry has been elected executive vice president, with responsibilities in the areas of rates and regulation, finance and accounting, personnel and other staff functions. Succeeding Mr. Berry as senior vice president of commercial operations will be Lemuel L. Eley, Jr., who is currently senior vice president, support services.

Leon D. Johnson, 111, vice president, transmission and distribution, will be promoted to senior vice president, support services, to succeed Mr. Eley.

In the area of finance and accounting, O. J. Peterson, 111, has been elected vice president and treasurer and appointe chief fisaicial officer, and B. D. Johnson, executive manager, accounting, has been elected vice president and controller, and designated principle accounting officer.

"I am confident," Mr. Mc Gurn said, "that this team of able, experiences executives will continue to meet the increasingly formidable, complex challenges facing us and other utilities in supplying an adequate and reliable supply of energy to our customers now and in the future.

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Virginia 4-H Receives Land

BLACKSBURG - The Old Dominion's 4-H youth program has received 210 acres of land near Franklin as the site for a modern, year-round educational center. Union Camp Corporation made the land donation, the largest corporate gift ever received by the Virginia 4-H program according to W.E. Lavery, president of Virginia Tech. Lavery announced the gift here this morning, in concert with Union Camp Officials.

Valued at $322,500, the land for the center is located in northeast Sussex County about 20 miles north of Union Camp's pulp and paper manufacturing complex at Franklin.

The parcel of land consists primarily of pine forests and includeds more than a mile of shoreline on Airfield Mill Pond. The site is bounded on the north by State Route 729 and on the east by r State Route e 628.

"This tract is ideally suited for the many 4-h educational programs which will be part of our proposed regional center," Dr. Lavery said. "I originally contacted Union Camp earlier this year regarding the possibility of it donating the area, and I am delighted with the generosity and speed with which the company responded." ded."

Union Camp Corporation donated the tract as part of its corporate Land Legacy Program established in 1975. Union Camp Chairman Alexander Calder, Jr., said, "As custodians of 1.7 million acres in six southeastern states, we are very conscious that there are times when broad community interests indicate that a certain tract of land might serve a better need than providing trees for forest products.

"We regard the proposed year-round educational center of the Southeast Extension District 4-H programs as such an instance. Thanks to the nation's tax laws, which properly entitle all taxpayers, including companies, to the -nasten the realization of some of our long-range plans for 4-H in the Southeast District. We thank not only Union Camp Corporation, but also the many local citizens, the civic groups, 4-H members and leaders and extension agents who helped with the planning for this center. They realized the needs and helped transmit this need to us at Tech and to Union Camp leaders. This is truly a community projects.

Regional 4-H educational centers are now being planned for each of the six extension districts in the state said Lavery. The Southeast Dstrict, he explained, serves 18 counties and cities and has one of the fastest growing 4-H programs in Virginia. Of its approximately 200,000 youths between nine and 19, more than 50,000 were enrolled in 4-H study project and activities last year.

On a national scale, the 4-H program has a membership of 5.8 million young people. Originally established in the early 1900's to instruct the youth of rural communities in modern farming methods, national 4-H is a progrm.am of Cooperative Extension Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and is administered through the land grant college in each state. Its primary purpose today is the development in young people of leadership and citizenship "life skills" through a learning-by-doing process. It draws on the human and natural resources in each locality with the support of the academic, business, and government segments of the community.

The educational center planned for the Southeast District of Virginia will be designed initially to accomodate 200 people at a time. It will include classrooms, sleeping lodges, a main assembly hall and an administrative building. The forest areas and mill pond will serve as "live laboratories" for teaching 4-H members, other youth groups, and adults the principles of conserving soil, forests, wildlife, and other natural resources.

Though designed primarily for the educational needs of 4-H members, the facility also will be available for use by church, civic, community and family groups, said Lavery. Estimated cost for facility, as it will eventually be constituted, is $2 million.

In 1972 Union Camp began the donation of its entire land holdings in the Great Dismal Swamp. That gift of about 50,000 acres valued at $12.6 million is now being managed as part of the U. S. Department of Interior's National Wildlife Refuge System.

As with that earlier gift, Union Camp has donated the Sussex County land through the agency of the Nature Conservancy. The Nature Conservancy, headquartered in the Washington, D. C. area, is a private organization dedicated to the conservation of lands of special enviromental significance.

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Area Dairy Farmers Attend Cooperative Annual Meeting

Someone else will be at home milking approximately 220,000 cowsn while dairy farmers from 13 Southeastern state are attending the Ninth Annual Meeting of Dairymen, Inc. on December 14 and 15 in Atlanta, Ga.

Already over half, or approximately 4,300 dairy farmer-owners of the regional milk marketing cooperative have pre-registered for the meeting, which will give them a look at the past fiscal year operations of Dairymen, Inc. and its bottling industry, Flav-O-Rich.

Dairymen, Inc. Board members and delegates from the cooperatives' 10 divisions will meet in session on Wednesday (December 14) morning and hear financial and administrative reports from Board President P. L. Robinson, Executive Vice President and General Manager Ben F. Morgan, Jr., Vice President of Finance James E. Mueller, and other staff members. Special guest speaker for the delegate session luncheon is John C. White, Deputy Under Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture.

On Wednesday evening, Dairymen Inc. member-owners will gather at the Atlanta Civic Center for reports from cooperative leaders, as well as to learn the winning couple's name in the Young Dairymen Contest.

On the second day of the meeting, three one-hour educational sessions will give the member-owners of Dairymen, Inc. an up-to-date look at the cooperitve's bottling operations, finances, manufacturing facilities, quality control porgram and a look at the current economic trends of the dairy industry.

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